

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A metering blade suspension system, comprising:
~~a metering blade assembly, wherein the metering blade assembly comprises~~ comprising a metering blade mounted on and supported by a mounting bracket; and
~~at least one leaf spring connected by a crimp connection near a first end to a lateral end portion of the mounting bracket adjacent the metering blade assembly and having a second end that secures the metering blade assembly in a drum maintenance unit, wherein the at least one leaf spring is connected to a lateral end portion of the mounting bracket~~ the leaf spring controls at least one of an angle, a position and a load of the mounting bracket supporting the metering blade.
2. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the leaf spring comprises a support arm for the blade assembly.
3. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the leaf spring comprises an electrically conductive material.
4. (Original) The suspension system of claim 3, wherein the electrically conductive material comprises metal.
5. (Previously Presented) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein said at least one leaf spring comprises a pair of leaf springs disposed at opposite end portions of the mounting bracket.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the metering blade assembly including the mounting bracket pivots on the at least one leaf spring.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The suspension system of claim 43, wherein the at least one leaf spring comprises a grounding path for bleeding static charge from the metering blade assembly.

11. (Original) A drum maintenance unit, comprising the metering blade suspension system of claim 1.

12. (Original) The drum maintenance unit of claim 10, wherein the at least one leaf spring secures the blade assembly in the drum maintenance unit.

13. (Original) A removable cassette for an imaging apparatus, comprising the drum maintenance unit of claim 10.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting a metering blade assembly in a drum maintenance unit, comprising connecting by a crimp connection a first end of at least one leaf spring to a mounting bracket on which the metering blade assembly is mounted, and securing a tab portion at a second end of the at least one leaf spring to the drum maintenance unit, wherein the at least one leaf spring controls at least one of an angle, a position and a load of the mounting bracket and the metering blade of the metering blade assembly.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one leaf spring comprises a pair of leaf springs disposed at opposite ends of the metering blade assembly.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the mounting bracket and the metering blade assembly pivots on the at least one leaf spring.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one leaf spring comprises a grounding path for bleeding static charge from the metering blade assembly.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the at least one leaf spring further includes a tab portion for securing the blade assembly in a drum maintenance unit.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The suspension system of claim 10, further comprising a static shield provided separate from the metering blade, the static shield including a tab portion in contact with the at least one leaf spring that forms part of the grounding path for bleeding static charge.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising connecting a static shield separate from the metering blade in contact with the at least one leaf spring to form part of the grounding path.